

Coins

'Emperor' gets tagged at \$135,000

By Roger Boye

COLD WINTER evenings must be when the thoughts of many persons turn to old coins and currency, judging by the number of questions I have received recently. Here are answers to two of the inquiries:

Q—My wife and I are starting a collection of Canadian coins and would like to know what is the most valuable coin from Canada.—G.S., Kenosha, Wis.

A—A 1911 Canadian silver dollar is sometimes called the "Emperor of Canadian Coins" because it is the country's most expensive numismatic item. One of two known specimens was sold last October to a Seattle coin dealer for \$135,000.

This silver dollar was a "pattern," a coin struck in limited quantities as a sample of a new design. Silver dollars weren't made on a regular basis in Canada until 1935.

The other 1911 "pattern dollar" is in the Royal Mint Museum in London.

And, before you ask: The highest-priced United States coin is a variety of the 1907 \$20 gold piece, which was sold last summer to a California dealer for "close to a million dollars." The design on this experimental gold piece was excessively concave, giving the coin a sharp, knifelike appearance.

Medal collectors might be interested to know that the highest-priced U.S. medal is believed to be a 1917 official inaugural medal for President Woodrow Wilson. It was struck in gold, and one of three known specimens recently sold for \$17,500.

Q—In 1922 I was given five silver dollars valued at that time at \$1 each. I have been told that the value of each dollar has been substantially increased, and if so, I would like to cash them in. Any information you can give will be appreciated.—A.C., Chicago.

A—Are your dollars dated 1922? What are the mint marks? What condition are they in? These questions need to be answered before we can discuss the dollars' collector value.

Questions about coins and collecting? Send them to me, in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. But, please, do not send coins.